REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-4 and 7-17 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth below.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner pointed out instances of unclear language in lines 13 and 15. With regard to line 13, "the" has been changed to "an" as suggested by the Examiner. With regard to line 15, "the" has been removed as suggested by the Examiner. Also, the term "HDI" has now been defined in the claim. Support for this definition is found on page 6, line 9 of the specification.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Sharp et al., U.S. Patent 6,263,317, in view of Guheen et al., U.S. Patent 6,721,713. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In regard to claim 5, this claim has been cancelled rendering this part of the rejection moot. However, the limitations of claim 5 have been added to claims 1 and 14.

The Examiner states that Sharp teaches a customer ordering a commodity through a web page, transmitting the commodity ordering information to a collaboration server while transmitting the commodity ordering information to a plurality of enterprise resource planning servers including executing the integrated operation of the ERP servers to generate a customized

table list and returning the customized table list for the customer to confirm. The Examiner admits that Sharp does not teach the four modules of the ERP server. The Examiner states that Guheen et al. teaches the billing material module, sales order module, work order module and product module. The Examiner feels that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Sharp to explicitly teach these four modules. The Examiner lists the motivation as being to provide customers with the capability of ordering and configuring products of choice from inventories of components that satisfy the customer needs and promote profitability. Applicants disagree that this combination of references renders claim 1 obvious.

Applicants submit that the cited references do not disclose a work order module which obtains material configuration information from the ATP server and generates an email to the customer and checks the preparation status of materials. The Examiner admits that Sharp et al. does not teach this module at all. Applicants submit that Guheen et al. also does not teach these particular features of the work order module. Applicants submit that claim 1 is not obvious over this combination of references.

In addition, Applicants have added the limitations of claim 5 to claim 1 which now includes the connection of the ERP servers through the ERP backbone to three other servers. Applicants submit that the references do not show an ERP backbone which connects to these three servers. In discussing claim 5, the Examiner stated that Sharp teaches these features but only refers to the same basic introduction to the system used in regard to claim 1. That is, the Examiner's arguments with regard to claim 5 are supported by a discussion at Col. 2, line 52 to Col. 3, line 44. Applicants submit that this is merely a general discussion of the manner in which this system operates and does not specifically show the ERP backbone connected to these three

servers. If the Examiner persists in this rejection, he is requested to point specifically to which lines teach the specific servers and backbone.

Claims 2-4 and 7-13 depend from claim 1 and as such are also considered to be allowable. In addition, each of these claims recites other features of the invention which make these claims additionally allowable.

Claim 14 is an independent claim which is similar to claim 1. In particular, this claim also recites the same limitations regarding the work order module and the new limitations added from claim 5 discussing the ERP backbone. Applicants submit that claim 14 is allowable for the same reasons recited above in regard to claim 1.

Claims 15-17 depend from claim 14 and as such are also considered to be allowable. These claims recite additional features making these claims additionally allowable as well.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Sharp et al. in view of Guheen et al. and Official Notice. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that official notice is taken that the data format in the strategy support server can be stored and queued in a first in first out principle. However, Applicants submit that even if Official Notice is taken of this feature, that this claim is still allowable based on its dependency on allowable claim 1.

Claims 14-17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Sharp et al. in view of Guheen et al. and Gleditsch et al., U.S. Patent 6,393,332. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner relies on Gleditsch et al. to teach transmitting supply demand information to an ATP server. The Examiner feels that it would have been obvious to modify the combination of the Sharp et al. and Guheen et al. patents to expressively transmit the

supply/demand information to the ATP server as taught by Gleditsch et al. However, Applicants submit that even if Gleditsch does teach this feature, it still does not overcome the deficiencies of the other two references discussed above with regard to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 14 is also allowable.

Claims 15-17 depend from claim 14 and as such are also considered to be allowable. In addition, these claims recite other features which make these claims additionally allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner. In view of this, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.
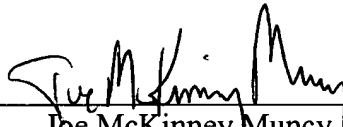
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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